

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an aesthetically pleasing transition between two or more menu bars comprising the steps of:

~~determining to~~ detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application having a first menu bar currently displayed to a second application having a second menu bar to be displayed;

updating a computer display to display a the second menu bar in place of the first menu bar; and

providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate ~~the~~ a transition between the first and second menu bars such that the differences between the first menu bar and the second menu bar are apparent.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~1, wherein the ~~triggering event~~ step of detecting a change comprises detecting a user-initiated event.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the ~~triggering event~~ step of detecting a change comprises detecting a mouse click event.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~1, wherein the step of ~~changing~~ detecting a change comprises detecting the opening an of the second application.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~1, wherein the step of ~~changing~~ detecting a change comprises detecting the quitting an of the first application.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise rotation animation graphics.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise scrolling animation graphics.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise three-dimensional animation graphics.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an aesthetically pleasing transition between two or more menu bars in a computer graphical user interface, comprising:

means for ~~determining to~~ detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application having a first menu bar currently displayed to a second application having a second menu bar to be displayed;

means for updating a computer display to display a the second menu bar in place of the first menu bar; and

means for providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate ~~the~~ a transition between the menu bars such that ~~the~~ differences between the first menu bar and the second menu bar are apparent.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a ~~triggering event~~ change is configured to detect one of: a user-initiated event, a system-initiated event, or a mouse click event.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a ~~triggering event~~ change is configured to detect one of opening an application, quitting an application, or making an application active.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for ~~rendering~~ providing visual notification is configured to render rotation animation graphics.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for ~~rendering~~ providing visual notification is configured to render scrolling animation graphics.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for ~~rendering~~ providing visual notification is configured to render three-dimensional animation graphics.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for ~~rendering~~ providing visual notification is configured to render the three-dimensional animation graphics by utilizing gray scales.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the means for ~~rendering~~ providing visual notification is configured to render the three dimensional animation graphics utilizing gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing a program that executes the following steps:

~~determining to~~ detecting a change between active applications running on a computer from a first application having a first menu bar currently displayed to a second application having a second menu bar to be displayed;

updating a computer display to display a the second menu bar in place of the first menu bar; and

providing visual notification of the change between active applications by rendering animation graphics to animate ~~the~~ a transition between the first and second menu bars such that ~~the~~ differences between the first menu bar and the second menu bar are apparent.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first menu bar comprises a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second menu bar comprises a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.

25. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the first menu bar comprises a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the first application and the second menu bar comprises a plurality of options pertaining to functions associated with the second application.